

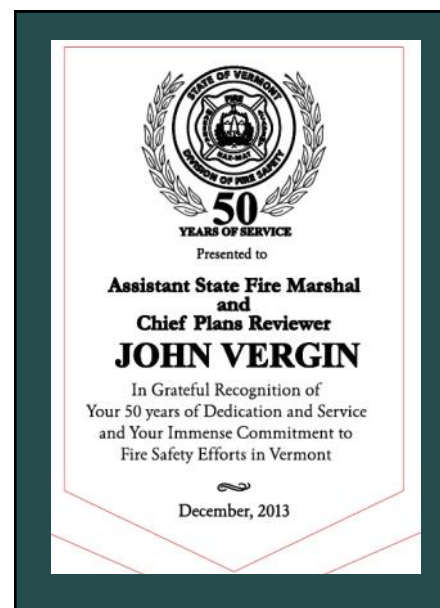


**FEBRUARY 2014**

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## Division of Fire Safety Honors John Vergin for 50 years of Dedication and Service



We recently celebrated John Vergin's 50<sup>th</sup> years of service with the State of Vermont. John's legacy began in Canada where he was born and raised. He attended the University of Saskatchewan for two years studying Mechanical Engineering and transferred to the University of Manitoba where he completed his college education and obtained a degree in Electrical Engineering. After College John went to work for ALCAN, a manufacturer of aluminum. At the request of ALCAN, John obtained a law degree and worked in the Company's Patent Office in Montreal, Canada. At the request of ALCAN, John moved to the United States where he applied and was accepted into the American Bar Association. While working for ALCAN in the United States, John was offered a job with the FBI. John began his training with the FBI and before he was able to complete his training, he accepted a job with the Department of Public Safety.

On June 17, 1963 John began his employment with the Department of Public Safety as a Captain in the Vermont State Police. Between 1963 and 1973 John was a Captain with the State Police, a Deputy State Fire Marshal, a State Director of Fire Prevention, and a Fire Protection Engineer. Between 1973 and 1982, John was a Building Safety Engineer, and then an Engineer C with the Department of Labor & Industry. Late in 1982 John was appointed as the Chief for Planning and Review, a position he still holds today. He is currently assigned to the Williston Regional Office.

**BOARD DEADLINE  
REMINDER**

If you have a board agenda item, it needs to be received at the Central Office no later than **2 weeks** prior to the board meeting.

(For all boards – Access, Electrical, Elevator & Plumbing)

**Meetings:**

**February:**

Electrical: 2/4/14

Elevator: 2/11/14

Access: 2/24/14

**March:**

Plumbing: 3/11/14

Access: 3/31/14

## Division Employees Honored For Service

FEBRUARY 2014



Brad Charron- 35 years of service



Bruce Martin- 31 years of service



GJ Garrow- 16 years of service



Chris Boyd- 16 years of service



Matt Jakubowski- 7 years of service



Paul Spicer- 7 years of service



John Black- 6 years of service



Andy Rea- 6 years of service



Jesse Dobiecki- 6 years of service



Todd Cosgrove- 6 years of service



Bill Brown- 6 years of service



## DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

FEBRUARY 2014

# Public Education & Information Section

Micheal D. Greenia Chief Public Education and Information Officer 1311 US Route 302 Barre VT 802.479.7587 [micheal.greenia@state.vt.us](mailto:micheal.greenia@state.vt.us)

## Out With the Old In With the New

In the New Year your input is vital to ensure together we meet the fire safety needs of Vermonters

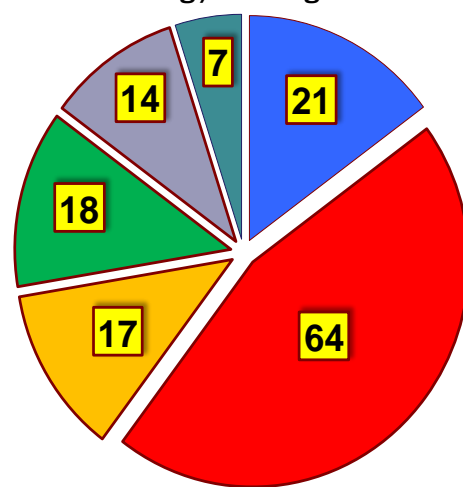
With the assistance of Vermont's local emergency services, division staff and other partners the public education & information section provided support to over 141 various public education programs and other events threw out the state; 2013 was a record year. We continually work to develop new programs, utilize national programs and collect cutting-edge research to address the fire safety education needs of Vermonters of all ages.

As DFS embarks on another year, we are requesting your help; we have put together a short survey that will be used to develop and evaluate current and future public fire and life safety educational programs. The survey will also evaluate the tools and resources that contribute to how DFS can best support the public education needs of Vermont's fire departments. Your input is important and valued. Please take the time to participating in the survey.



### 2013 Programs

- School Programs
- Public Safety Days / Fairs
- FD Open House
- Public Fire Safety Training
- Other Events
- Meeting / Training



We are currently conducting an on-line survey to get input from fire department leaders, local public fire educators and fire prevention personnel.

**Please take the time to participating in the survey. Go to**

**[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VT-DFS\\_Pub\\_Ed\\_Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VT-DFS_Pub_Ed_Survey)**



## Here's a fun way to bring fire safety to the classroom



NFPA has created a free deluxe storybook app and e-book to help you reach out to preschool through grade 5 students. Join Sparky the Fire Dog® in celebrating fire safety and reading!

new free apps and materials that are jam-packed with games, activities, coloring pages, and even a sing-a-long. With bright graphics and kid-friendly tappable animations throughout, this free app is aligned to Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Math.

For free resources go to >> [sparkyschoolhouse.org](http://sparkyschoolhouse.org).



## NFPA offers safety tips in honor of Burn Awareness Week

Burn Awareness Week, is designed to provide an opportunity for burn, fire and life safety educators to unite in sharing a common burn awareness and prevention message in our communities. Burn Awareness Week, celebrated early in the year, is an excellent opportunity to “kick off” a year full of burn awareness education.

NFPA is proud to participate in this year's Burn Awareness Week by providing safety tips and information related to scald burns. Scald burns can be caused by any hot liquid, fluid, or vapor, including hot tap water, overheated beverages, steam, and hot oil. Interestingly, scald burns accounted for almost one-third (31%) of all non-fire burn injuries reported to hospital emergency rooms in 2012!

Take a look at our [scald burn safety tip sheet](#) for information on how to stay safe.

<http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/causes/scalds>



## SAFETY SOURCE

NFPA'S PUBLIC  
EDUCATION NEWSLETTER



<http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-public-educators/safety-source-newsletter>



As part of NFPA's commitment to eliminate fire deaths and injuries through effective public education programs and information, NFPA strives to be the source for fire and life safety information. With help from our official mascot, [Sparky the Fire Dog®](#), and our national outreach efforts, like our public education advisors, public education network, [Safety Source e-newsletter](#), [Remembering When™](#) program, [Learn Not to Burn®](#) programs, and our annual [Fire Prevention Week](#) campaign, NFPA is helping to make the world a safer place. Strategies are integrated throughout our programs to reach those at highest risk including young children, older adults, people in low-income communities and people with disabilities.

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**VT HAZMAT TEAM NOTES**


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Chris Herrick, Chief

## ***HAZMAT 101***

Here is a 'refresher' for first on scene personnel when responding to a HAZMAT incident. You should answer these questions in a fairly quick manner:

- ☐ Has an Incident Command System been established?
- ☐ **Do we need additional assistance? If yes or maybe call 1-800-641-5005\***
  - ☐ Is the Command Post in a safe area?
  - ☐ Is there an immediate life safety concern?
    - ☐ Are we monitoring the air?
    - ☐ Establish control zones
    - ☐ How many victims are there?
  - ☐ Is EMS on scene and do we have adequate EMS assets?
    - ☐ Is there a need to evacuate or shelter in place
    - ☐ Do I need 'emergency' decontamination
      - ☐ Can we identify the product?
        - Shipping papers
        - Placards
        - Shape of container
      - Description of product from witnesses or victims
    - ☐ Is the product moving? Can we contain it?
      - Do we have the training and equipment?
      - Where will it go if we do not stop it?
    - ☐ Do I need Town Highway to bring resources?
      - Road blocks
      - Sand
      - Heavy equipment
  - ☐ Does electricity need to be cut? (When flammable vapors are present)
- When considering whether you need additional HAZMAT assistance it is important to call the **HAZMAT Hotline at 1-800-641-5005**. This is the gateway to all HAZMAT assistance in the State whether it is simply speaking to a HAZMAT Team Crew Chief or requesting the assistance of the entire team or having one of the decon trailers respond to your scene.

If you have any questions or comments please contact me  
at 1-802-479-7586 or [Christopher.Herrick@state.vt.us](mailto:Christopher.Herrick@state.vt.us)

Follow on Twitter: [@vthazmatchief](https://twitter.com/vthazmatchief)

Like our Facebook Page

Christopher Herrick, M.Ed. CFO

Chief



## Three State Weekend 2014 at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland Application Period has opened!

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS: Tuesday, April 1st**  
**WEEKEND IS: MAY 17 & 18, 2014**

### Course Offerings:

- Commissioning New Occupancies
- Shaping the Future
- Wildland Urban Interface Firefighting for Structural Company Officers
- Community Risk Issues and Prevention Interventions
- Incident Command System for Structural Collapse Incidents
- National Fire Incident Reporting System: Intro. To NFIRS
- Fire Service Safety Culture: Who Protects Firefighters From Firefighters?

**Please Contact the Fire Academy with further questions: 802-483-2755**

# Vermont Fire Academy's 2014 NFA 3-State Weekend Application Checklist

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- ☐ Review the seven (7) course options available to you. Choose three (3) and prioritize them 1-3, in order of preference
- ☐ Fill out Section 1 of the VFA application
- ☐ Go to <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/> and register for a Student Identification number (SID). This is mandatory. But it is easy. Put that number into Section 1B (if you already have a SID, but don't know it, you can look it up on this site)
- ☐ Complete Section 2 of the application, using the courses you have chosen
- ☐ Determine how the event will be paid for (personally, or through your department); get your dept rep's signature; review the 3-State Weekend Payment Details Memo
- ☐ Fill out the FEMA General Application, up to line 22a/b, your Chief's signature
- ☐ Consider whether you will use the BWI shuttle. If so, fill out the form
- ☐ Familiarize yourself with the two info sheets on event logistics and admin; review NFA Campus Security Regulations here: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/security.shtm>
- ☐ Ensure you **Submit** your package **No**

**Later Than Close of Business**

**Tuesday, April 1st.**



# National Fire Incident Reporting System

Fighting Fire with Facts

**N  
F  
I  
R  
S**

In preparation for the 2013 Annual Report of the State Fire Marshal, the statewide data transfer from the federal database was done on January 27th, 2014.

Any department reports entered or corrected after that date will not be reflected in this report. Those departments that have not submitted incident reports for 2013 must still do so as required by law even though the deadline for inclusion in the report has passed.



Fire department reporting is required by state law. And each fire department is required to submit their emergency incident data reports to the Vermont State Fire Marshal's Office in accordance with Vermont Law 20 V.S.A. Section 2833.

The Division of Fire Safety continues to thank those departments that report valid incident reports on a timely bases. These reports are being used at the state and national level to make decisions that will affect public safety and the fire service for years to come.

For additional Incident Reporting Resources or information please visit:

[http://firesafety.vermont.gov/fire\\_investigation/vfirs/](http://firesafety.vermont.gov/fire_investigation/vfirs/)

If you need your user account reset or if you need additional help please email a request.

Please include: Your department name, FDID #, and the account user name. We will reset the account to the default password as soon as possible.

Contact one of the State Program Managers if you require additional assistance.

## State Program Managers Contact Information:

**Stanley Baranowski**

Phone: 800-640-2106 or

802-479-7575

E-Mail: [Stanley.Baranowski@state.vt.us](mailto:Stanley.Baranowski@state.vt.us)

**Michael D. Greenia**

1311 U.S. Route 302, Suite 600



## **Deputy Commissioner John Wood Announces Retirement**

**Retired from Public Safety on January 10, 2014 after 41 years of devoted service to the Fire Service and State of Vermont.**



The Vermont Department of Public Safety honors Deputy Commissioner Wood's distinguished career spanning over 41 years. Those of us who served with John can attest to his deep passion and commitment to the fire service and public safety. The accomplishments Deputy Commissioner Wood achieved during his Directorship with the Division of Fire Safety speak to his character. He taught everyone something valuable about the importance of fire safety. John strived tirelessly to bring together all facets of the fire service as a single voice. This was evident with the creation of the Vermont Coalition of Fire and Rescue Service which was responsible for a number of major initiatives and accomplishments including; dry hydrant program, VTC burn building, VTC fire science program, presumptive cancer legislation, survivor benefit program, respiratory legislation, heart disease legislation Vermont Fire Academy, creation of the Division of Fire Safety, photoelectric smoke alarm legislation, carbon monoxide legislation and numerous capital projects including a new Fire Academy Administrative Office Building, and many fire service training props. The needs of the Fire Service know no boundaries and we must continue to meet the challenges of tomorrow with a single voice.

When John was appointed Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety he knew he would be faced with a new level of political urgency. John took on this assignment with the same drive and passion one would expect from him. John spent his time working at Public Safety with Commissioner Flynn and his staff while walking the floors of the State House to protect the interest of safety. John's command presence and confidence to tackle any issue was transparent and welcomed. John was always able to strategize solutions to any problem by drawing on his institutional knowledge and life experience. John knew how to maneuver through the political process and was a strong voice for a just cause.

Deputy Commissioner Wood always viewed problems as challenges and was driven to find viable solutions always putting safety first. John's leadership, institutional wisdom, confidence, and commanding presence enabled him to achieve such a noble career. His departure has left a legacy of accomplishments which will follow all of us through our career. On behalf of everyone at Public Safety--- thank you sir for your many years of unselfish, dedicated and devoted service.

## ***What you need to know if you are converting***

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### **Fuel Oil**

According to Vermont law, any above ground fuel oil tank system which is out-of-service for more than one year must be removed in accordance with codes developed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Upon removing an aboveground storage tank system from within a building, the fill pipe must also be removed from the structure. Under no circumstance may a disconnected fill pipe be left in place. The person that removes the tank is responsible for also removing the fill pipe. When removing an aboveground storage tank system the site needs to be inspected wherever contamination is likely to exist. Unused fuel in old tanks that is not burned prior must be disposed of properly. under Vermont's Hazardous Waste Management Regulations.



### **Propane**

Unlike other petroleum products, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not consider propane to be a groundwater contaminant. Regardless, homeowners should take steps to safely remove unused tanks. Since most propane tanks are owned by fuel providers, consumers need to contact their provider to have the tank removed. If you have had service with your propane company for more than a year, there will likely be no charges or fees associated with tank removal. If you own your tank, contact a propane technician certified by the Vermont. Division of Fire Safety to ensure safe removal.

If you have any questions, please contact VFDA at 802-230-4722 or [info@vermontfuel.com](mailto:info@vermontfuel.com)

This Safety Brochure is brought to you by the Vermont Fuel Dealers Association in cooperation with the Vermont Department of Public Safety.

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## **February 18th, 9:00am– 2014 Electrical Code Meeting**

There will be a discussion held at the Division of Fire Safety in Berlin covering the topic of the 2014 Electrical code. This meeting welcomes anyone who would like to ask questions or just be informed of changes to the Electrical Code.

If there are any questions, please contact Kelsey at 1-802-479-7564, or at [Kelsey.Remick@state.vt.us](mailto:Kelsey.Remick@state.vt.us)



# Home Fire Sprinklers

Over 80% of fire deaths occur in the home. Home fire sprinklers can save lives and property from fire. They respond quickly and effectively to fire, often extinguishing the fire before the fire department arrives. Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water on the fire.

## SAFETY TIPS

- » Home fire sprinklers save lives and property. In many situations, a family who has survived a fire will also have their "home" to live in and enough of the items and space in their home to continue living their lives as they did before.
- » The cost of a home fire sprinkler system in a new home averages \$1.61 per sprinklered square foot totaling an amount similar to what is spent for carpet upgrades, paving stone driveway or a whirlpool bath.  
Source: Fire Protection Research Foundation Study 2008.
- » A home fire sprinkler system can reduce the homeowner's insurance premium.
- » Fire departments typically use roughly 10 times as much water as a fire sprinkler would use to contain a fire.  
Source: Fire Protection Research Foundation Study 2010.
- » Fire sprinklers are environmentally friendly. They can reduce the amount of water run-off and pollution, fire damage by up to 71%, and water usage to fight a home fire by as much as 91%.  
Source: FM Global and Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition Study 2010.
- » Cigar smoke or burnt toast will not activate a fire sprinkler. Only the high temperature of a fire will activate the sprinkler.
- » A home fire sprinkler system is easy to maintain. Just inspect your home to make sure the sprinklers are not blocked by something that would prevent the water from coming out such as paint and be sure the main control valve is never turned off.
- » Home fire sprinklers are effective in cold and warm climates. Guidelines have been created for the proper installation of systems to avoid pipes freezing. A home fire sprinkler system should be winterized the same as you winterize a domestic water supply.

## And Don't Forget...

- » If **MOVING** into an apartment or condominium building, make sure common areas and individual apartments are sprinklered.
- » If **BUILDING** a new home or remodeling an existing home, consider installing a home fire sprinkler system.

## FACTS

- ! More than 2,500 people die in home fires each year.
- ! The risk of dying in a reported home fire decreases by about 80% when the home is equipped with a fire sprinkler system.



Your Source for SAFETY Information [www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)  
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



Vermont Dept of Public Safety

FEBRUARY 2014

# Division of Fire Safety

## 2014 Training Schedule – Notice of Upcoming Events

DATE	INSTRUCTOR / TOPIC	LOCATION TIME
February 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Inspectors Technical Training</b> Topics /Agenda <u>Morning Session</u> <b>Inspecting Fire &amp; Energy Code in Regards to Insulation</b> Frans van de Ven Walter Scott, Efficiency Vermont <u>Afternoon Session</u> <b>Fire Alarm Emerging Technology in Communications</b> Matt Buehrer	BERLIN CENTRAL OFFICE  8:30– 2:30
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Inspectors Technical Training</b> Topics /Agenda <u>Morning Session</u> <b>Elevator Installation/Operation</b> <u>Afternoon Session</u> <b>The Inspection of School Labs</b> Chris Herrick Chief - VT Hazardous Materials Response Team	BERLIN CENTRAL OFFICE  8:30– 2:30
May TBA	<b>DFS - Special Operations Training</b> Topics /Agenda— <b>Regional office / Building Safety Assessment Teams operations –</b> 3 Hr. Table top Sessions (CATEX 2 lead up) Sponable /Greenia	TBA
June TBA	<b>Vermont Catastrophic Full-Scale Exercise (2014 CATEX2)</b> SEOC SSF Operations – Exercise Building Safety Assessment Teams - Exercise HAZMAT Team – Exercise	TBA
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Inspectors Technical Training</b> Topics /Agenda— <u>Morning Session</u> <b>New Sprinkler Technology</b> Jeff Harlow – Victaulic Corp. <u>Afternoon Session</u> <b>Clean Agent Fire Suppression Systems</b> Robert Gauthier - President & Owner FireProTec	BERLIN CENTRAL OFFICE 8:30– 2:30
<b>DFS Inspector Training - Point of Contact</b> Deputy Director Robert Patterson 802-479-7566 Robert.Patterson@state.vt.us		





State of Vermont Dept of Public Safety

# Division of Fire Safety

[www.firesafety.vermont.gov](http://www.firesafety.vermont.gov)

## CALENDAR OF FIRE EVENTS

### February 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

~ EVENTS ~  
PRESIDENTS DAY- 2/17/14- STATE HOLIDAY

### BOARD MEETING DATES

Electrical Board Meeting- February 4, 2014 (9am)  
Elevator Board Meeting- February 11, 2014 (9am)  
Access Board Meeting- February 24, 2014 (1:30pm)

Date	Event	Location
2nd-8th	National Burn Awareness Week	All
14	Valentines Day	All
MONTH	Black History Month	All

National Burn Awareness Week



### March 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

~ EVENTS ~  
TOWN MEETING DAY- 3/4/14- STATE HOLIDAY

### BOARD MEETING DATES

Plumbing Board Meeting- March 11, 2014 (9am)  
Access Board Meeting- March 31, 2014 (1:30pm)

Date	Event	Location
9	Daylight Savings Begins	All
16-22	National Poison Prevention Week	All
17	Saint Patrick's Day	All





State of Vermont Division of Fire Safety

FEBRUARY 2014

1311 US Route 302—Berlin Suite 600

Barre, VT 05641-2351

FIRESAFETY.VERMONT.GOV

*To be added to the monthly newsletter email  
mailing list contact Nicole at  
Nicole.York@state.vt.us*

**REMEMBER .... Smoke Detectors, Fire Sprinklers and Carbon  
Monoxide Detectors Save Lives**

Vermont Department of Public Safety

## ***Division of Fire Safety***

### **Central Office**

1311 US Route 302— Suite 600  
Barre, VT 05641-2351  
Phone (802) 479-7561 Fax (802) 479-7562  
Toll Free (800) 640-2106

### **HAZMAT Response Team**

Phone (802) 479-7586  
Fax (802) 479-7562  
Toll Free (800) 641-5005

### **Vermont Fire Academy**

93 Davison Drive  
Pittsford, VT 05763  
Phone (802) 483-2755 Fax (802) 483-2464  
Toll Free (800) 615-3473

## **Regional Offices:**

### **Barre**

1311 US Route 302— Suite 500  
Barre, VT 05641-7301  
Phone (802) 479-4434 Fax (802) 479-4446  
Toll Free 1-888-870-7888

### **Springfield**

100 Mineral Street, Suite 307  
Springfield VT 05156-3168  
Phone (802) 885-8883 Fax (802) 885-8885  
Toll Free 1-866-404-8883

### **Rutland**

56 Howe Street, Building A-Suite 200  
Rutland, VT 05701  
Phone (802) 786-5867 Fax (802) 786-5872  
Toll Free (888) 370-4834

### **Williston**

372 Hurricane Lane, Suite 102  
Williston, VT 05495-7151  
Phone (802) 879-2300 Fax (802) 879-2312  
Toll Free (800) 366-8325

## **DIVISION OF STATE POLICE—FIRE INVESTIGATION**

Waterbury—103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-2101— (802) 244-8781—Fax (802) 241-5371